

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled).

15. (New) A method for diagnosing sepsis comprising the steps of:

measuring an amount of low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in a body fluid, wherein said low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins have an amino acid sequence wherein 42 or more amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein are deleted, and

comparing the measured value to a standard value of normal persons or patients in order to diagnose sepsis.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins do not bind to F1025-3-1 antibody.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the

low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are mainly 36 kDa proteins.

18. (New) A method for measuring low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in a body fluid, said low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins having an amino acid sequence wherein 42 or more amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein are deleted, comprising the steps of:

- (A) measuring immunologically a total amount of soluble CD14 proteins in the body fluid;
- (B) measuring immunologically an amount of high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in the body fluid, wherein said high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are human full length soluble CD14 protein or soluble CD14 proteins having an amino acid sequence wherein 41 or less amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein are deleted; and
- (C) subtracting the amount of high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins from the total amount of soluble CD14 proteins.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said step (A) further comprises specifically reacting the body fluid to anti-CD14 antibody and measuring the reacted amount; and

said step (B) further comprises specifically reacting the body fluid to anti-CD14 antibody which binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 328 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and measuring the reacted amount.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the reacting step and the measuring step in (A) and (B) are analyzed by an immunological sandwich method.

21. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins do not bind to F1025-3-1 antibody, but the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins bind to F1025-3-1 antibody.

22. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are mainly 36 kDa proteins and the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are mainly 49 kDa and 55 kDa soluble CD14 proteins.

23. (New) A method for measuring high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in a body fluid, wherein said high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are human full length soluble CD14 proteins or soluble CD14 proteins having an amino acid sequence wherein 41 or less amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein are deleted, comprising the steps of:

specifically reacting the body fluid to an anti-CD14 antibody which binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 356 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

measuring the reacted amount.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the anti-CD14 antibody binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 328 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or from positions 331 to 345 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the anti-CD14 antibody binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 328 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are mainly 49

kDa and 55 kDa proteins.

26. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the anti-CD14 antibody binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 331 to 345 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are mainly 55 kDa proteins.

27. (New) An isolated antibody prepared by immunizing a mammal with a peptide comprising 6 to 41 consecutive amino acids of from positions 316 to 356 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

28. (New) The isolated antibody according to claim 27, wherein said peptide comprises 6 to 13 consecutive amino acids of from positions 316 to 328 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or

said peptide comprises 6 to 15 consecutive amino acids of from positions 331 to 345 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

29. (New) An antibody produced by a hybridoma cell line deposited as Accession No. FERM BP-7295 or Accession No. FERM BP-7296.

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30. (New) A hybridoma cell line deposited as Accession
No. FERM BP-7295 or Accession No. FERM BP-7296.